

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An appliance for the preparation of hot drinks, the appliance comprising;
 - a drink preparation chamber in which hot water is combined with another substance to prepare a hot beverage; and
 - a water supply conduit having an outlet exposed to atmospheric pressure and arranged to dispense hot water into the drink preparation chamber, the water supply conduit including;
 - a riser through which water flows toward the outlet;
 - a heater extending along at least a portion of the riser and heating water in the riser; and
 - a conduit pressure control chamber open to atmospheric pressure and in hydraulic communication with a lower end of the riser such that water in the riser that is maintained during heating at a water level between the heater and an upper end of the riser and substantially equal to a static water level in the pressure control chamber, wherein the pressure control chamber further comprises an overflow chamber at a level corresponding to the level of water in the riser that is between the heater and the outlet.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) The appliance of claim 1 wherein the pressure control chamber further comprises a pressure sensor gauge responsive to static water pressure in the water supply conduit.

4. (Original) The appliance of claim 1 further comprising an optical sensor responsive to water level in the pressure control chamber.
5. (Original) The appliance of claim 1 further comprising a check valve preventing backflow from the riser into the pressure control chamber.
6. (Original) The appliance of claim 1 wherein the water supply conduit further comprises a water supply chamber in fluid communication with the pressure control chamber and containing a quantity of water for replenishing the water supply conduit to replace dispensed hot water.
7. (Original) The appliance of claim 6 further comprising a pump hydraulically disposed between the water supply chamber and the pressure control chamber.
8. (Original) The appliance of claim 6 wherein the water supply chamber has a water outlet extending downward into the pressure control chamber.
9. (Original) The appliance of claim 8 wherein the water outlet includes a valve that is controlled by a sensor responsive to water level in the pressure control chamber.
10. (Original) The appliance of claim 9 wherein the sensor is an optical sensor.
11. (Original) The appliance of claim 9 wherein the sensor is a pressure gauge.
12. (Original) The appliance of claim 9 wherein the water outlet includes a float valve outlet and the sensor is a float sensor.

13. (Original) The appliance of claim 6 further comprising a filter positioned between the water supply chamber and the pressure control chamber.
14. (Original) The appliance of claim 1 further comprising a spring positioned below the pressure control chamber, wherein the spring expands to provide a substantially constant static water level in the pressure control chamber as the amount of water in the pressure control chamber diminishes.
15. (Original) The appliance of claim 1 wherein the riser extends in a substantially vertical direction.
16. (Original) The appliance of claim 1 wherein the riser extends at an angle inclined to vertical.
17. (Original) The appliance of claim 1 wherein the heater extends substantially over the length of the riser.
18. (Original) The appliance of claim 18 wherein the heater is a heating rod.
19. (Original) The appliance of claim 18 wherein the heating rod is coiled about the riser.
20. (Currently amended) The appliance of ~~claim 23~~ claim 18 wherein the heating rod extends along an outer wall of the riser.
21. (Original) The appliance of claim 1 wherein the heater surrounds the riser.
22. (Original) The appliance of claim 1 wherein the riser has its greatest cross-sectional area in the portion along which the heater extends.

23. (Original) The appliance of claim 1 further comprising a sensor responsive to water level in the riser.
24. (Original) The appliance of claim 23 wherein the sensor responsive to water level further comprises a controller that disables the heater when the water level in the riser falls below a predetermined level.
25. (Cancelled)
26. (New) An appliance for the preparation of hot drinks, the appliance comprising;
a drink preparation chamber in which hot water is combined with another substance to prepare a hot beverage; and
a water supply conduit having an outlet exposed to atmospheric pressure and arranged to dispense hot water into the drink preparation chamber, the water supply conduit including;
a riser through which water flows toward the outlet;
a heater extending along at least a portion of the riser and heating water in the riser; and
a conduit pressure control chamber open to atmospheric pressure and in hydraulic communication with a lower end of the riser such that water in the riser that is maintained during heating at a water level between the heater and an upper end of the riser and substantially equal to a static water level in the pressure control chamber, wherein the pressure control chamber further comprises a pressure sensor gauge responsive to static water pressure in the water supply conduit.
27. (New) An appliance for the preparation of hot drinks, the appliance comprising;
a drink preparation chamber in which hot water is combined with another substance to prepare a hot beverage; and

a water supply conduit having an outlet exposed to atmospheric pressure and arranged to dispense hot water into the drink preparation chamber, the water supply conduit including;
a riser through which water flows toward the outlet;
a heater extending along at least a portion of the riser and heating water in the riser;

a conduit pressure control chamber open to atmospheric pressure and in hydraulic communication with a lower end of the riser such that water in the riser that is maintained during heating at a water level between the heater and an upper end of the riser and substantially equal to a static water level in the pressure control chamber; and

an optical sensor responsive to water level in the pressure control chamber.

28. (New) An appliance for the preparation of hot drinks, the appliance comprising;

a drink preparation chamber in which hot water is combined with another substance to prepare a hot beverage; and

a water supply conduit having an outlet exposed to atmospheric pressure and arranged to dispense hot water into the drink preparation chamber, the water supply conduit including;

a riser through which water flows toward the outlet;

a heater extending along at least a portion of the riser and heating water in the riser; and

a conduit pressure control chamber open to atmospheric pressure and in hydraulic communication with a lower end of the riser such that water in the riser that is maintained during heating at a water level between the heater and an upper end of the riser and substantially equal to a static water level in the pressure control chamber; wherein the water supply conduit further comprises a water supply chamber in fluid communication with the pressure control chamber and containing a quantity of water for replenishing the water supply conduit to replace dispensed hot water, the water supply chamber having a water outlet extending downward into the pressure control chamber, and the water outlet including

a valve that is controlled by a sensor responsive to water level in the pressure control chamber.

29. (New) An appliance for the preparation of hot drinks, the appliance comprising;

- a drink preparation chamber in which hot water is combined with another substance to prepare a hot beverage; and

- a water supply conduit having an outlet exposed to atmospheric pressure and arranged to dispense hot water into the drink preparation chamber, the water supply conduit including;

- a riser through which water flows toward the outlet;

- a heater extending along at least a portion of the riser and heating water in the riser; and

- a conduit pressure control chamber open to atmospheric pressure and in hydraulic communication with a lower end of the riser such that water in the riser that is maintained during heating at a water level between the heater and an upper end of the riser and substantially equal to a static water level in the pressure control chamber; and

- a sensor responsive to water level in the riser, wherein the sensor comprises a controller that disables the heater when the water level in the riser falls below a predetermined level.